

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 /131 W
----- 122079 /22

R 140634Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5486
INFO MTN GENEVA 337
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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ACTION STR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, MY
SUBJECT: MTN TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MTN GENEVA 9226

1. DEP DIRECTOR ABDUL MUTALIB, INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION,
MINISTRY TRADE AND INDUSTRY, CALLED IN ECON COUNSELOR ON
DECEMBER 13 TO DISCUSS TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS. MEETING
WAS FOLLOW-UP TO CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA AND EARLIER
REPRESENTATION HERE TO DEP SEC GEN DE BRUYNE ON NEED FOR
RECIPROCITY IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS SECTOR. ABDUL MUTALIB
JOINED BY MRS. NORRAESAH, SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

2. MEETING OPENED WITH MALAYSIANS REITERATING VIEW THAT U.S.
TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONCESSIONS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED
JANUARY 1, 1977 WITH POSSIBLE MALAYSIAN CONTRIBUTION
DETERMINED AT CONCLUSION OF MTN. THEY ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF
POSSIBLE CHANGE OF POLICY UNDER NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION.
WE RESPONDED THAT TRADE ACT DID NOT AUTHORIZE UNILATERAL
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CONCESSIONS, THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS EXPECTED TO

DEMONSTRATE TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH THAT SOME RECIPROCITY OBTAINED IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT POLICY CHANGE UNLIKELY SINCE MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATION IS MATTER OF LAW. DRAWING ON PARA 2 REFTEL, WE ALSO INDICATED THAT U.S. HAS SOME FLEXIBILITY ON BOTH OUR OFFER AND REQUEST LISTS BUT THAT CONCESSIONS BY BOTH PARTIES EXPECTED.

3. AFTER SOME PHILOSOPHIZING, DISCUSSION BECAME MORE FRANK WITH MALAYSIANS LISTING IN PRIORITY ORDER FOLLOWING ITEMS AS POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO U.S. OFFER LIST: RUBBER FOOTWEAR, RUBBER PRODUCTS, PALM KERNEL OIL, CANNED PINEAPPLES (LIFTING OF STANDARDS REQUIREMENT WHICH, THEY EXPLAINED, CANNOT BE MET WITH EXISTING MACHINERY), WOOD MOLDINGS AND WOOD VENEERS.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF U.S. REQUEST LIST, THEY SAID THAT INSECTICIDES IS PROBLEM SINCE IT EXPECTED THAT THIS WOULD BE PRODUCED BY MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA. ACETONE ALSO MENTIONED IN SAME CONTEXT BUT THEY (AND WE) UNCERTAIN WHETHER PRODUCTION FEASIBLE WITHIN ASEAN. ALL SIZES OF DIESEL ENGINES ARE PROBLEM TO EXTENT THAT THEY WOULD BE MANUFACTURED WITHIN ASEAN. SINGAPORE 3952 REPORTS FIRST PHASE MANUFACTURE OF ENGINES UP TO 250 H.P. REFRIGERATION OVER TWELVE CUBIC FEET ALSO SEEN AS PROBLEM SINCE LOCAL FIRM PRESENTLY MANUFACTURES FOURTEEN CUBIC FEET AND LARGER. THEY DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT TARIFF SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND LIKELY TO BE REDUCED OVER TIME. NO PROBLEMS SEEN WITH EVAPORATORS, CONDENSERS, NON-DOMESTIC REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT, ACCOUNTING MACHINES AND STATISTICAL PUNCH CARD MACHINES.

5. COMMENT: WE READ ABOVE MEETING AS FURTHER TESTING BY GOM OF MESSAGE TRANSMITTED BY U.S. DEL GENEVA (REFTEL) AND INDICATES EVOLUTION OF GOM THINKING IN DIRECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONTEXT.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROPICAL PRODUCTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUALA07150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760460-0145
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761245/aaaabmvg.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MTN GENEVA 9226
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN TR
TAGS: ETRD, MY, MTN
To: SECSTATE WASHDC MTN GENEVA BANGKOK JAKARTA MANILA SINGAPORE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006